



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

July 25, 2016

Dear Healthcare Facility Administrator and Director of Nursing,

Healthcare administrators are often concerned about accepting patients who were recently diagnosed with *Clostridium difficile*. **Patients with a history of *C. difficile* that no longer have diarrhea (i.e., has formed stools) can be removed from Contact Precautions. Retesting these patients for *C. difficile* as a “test of cure” is not recommended.** Patients with a history of *C. difficile* that continue to have diarrhea can be accepted based on a facility’s capability to provide the appropriate level of care. Please remember that Standard Precautions should be used for every resident.

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) & Arizona Healthcare-Associated Infection (HAI) Advisory Committee recommend that long-term care facility staff use the [Enhanced Standard Precautions for Long-Term Care Facilities](#) as a guide for the development of facility-specific policies and procedures for the prevention of pathogen transmission, including *C. difficile*.

***Clostridium difficile* guidance and resources:**

- Information and resources about *C. difficile* surveillance and prevention can be found in the [Clostridium difficile toolkit](#) on the HAI Program webpage.
- Report all outbreaks of nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea to your [local health department](#). For questions about *C. difficile* you may also contact the ADHS Healthcare-Associated Infections Program through e-mail at HAIProgram@azdhs.gov or by phone at (602) 364-3676.
- Hospitals and skilled nursing facilities can contact the [ADHS Office of Long-Term Care Licensing](#) for information about regulations regarding admission and placement in skilled nursing facilities, or contact [Keith Chartier](#) at (602) 801-6906 or [Elaine Nelson](#) at (602) 801-6933 with Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG) for information regarding the Arizona Nursing Home Quality Care Collaborative.

Sincerely,

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This recommendation is further supported by the following organizations known for their work in infection prevention:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/organisms/cdiff/Cdiff_fags_HCP.html

The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA): http://www.shea-online.org/Assets/files/position_papers/SHEA_Cdiff.pdf

Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA): http://www.idsociety.org/uploadedFiles/IDSA/Guidelines-Patient_Care/PDF_Library/cdiff2010a.pdf

The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC): <http://apic.org/Resource/EliminationGuideForm/59397fc6-3f90-43d1-9325-e8be75d86888/File/2013CDiffFinal.pdf>

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